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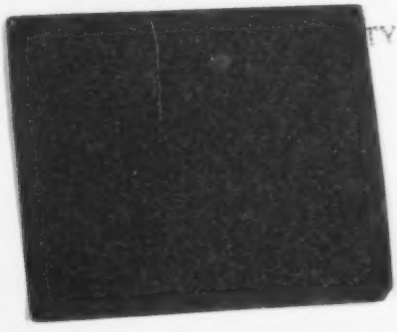
COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 9
OF THE CONVENTION

Fourteenth periodic report of States parties due in 1996

Addendum

Ukraine*



[5 March 1997]

* This document contains the fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports (consolidated in one document) due on 6 April 1994 and 1996 respectively. For the twelfth periodic report of Ukraine and the summary records at which the Committee considered that report, see documents CERD/C.226/Add.3 and CERD/C/SR.958, 959 and 983.

The information submitted by Ukraine in accordance with the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of the reports of States parties is contained in the basic document HRI/CORE/I/Add.63.

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PART I - GENERAL

1. This report supplements previous reports submitted by Ukraine in compliance with article 9 of the Convention (the last report was submitted to the secretariat in July 1992). The report was prepared by the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice, the Ukrainian State Committee on Nationalities and Migration, the Ukrainian State Committee on Religion, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

2. On achieving independence, Ukraine faced the problem of selecting a model for its ethno-political development. It is worth mentioning that one of the priorities in its elaboration of inter-ethnic relations policy was the desire to protect the rights of national minorities. In view of the multi-ethnic composition of its population (over one quarter of its citizens are not ethnic Ukrainians), Ukraine embarked upon the creation of a multicultural society based on its long-standing tradition of the constructive coexistence and mutually enriching interaction of the various ethnic, religious and linguistic groups living in its territory.

3. For this reason, legislation regulating inter-ethnic relations was drafted on the basis of the principle of the equality of rights and freedoms of citizens, regardless of their national (ethnic) origin, race and beliefs, and the need to create equal opportunities enabling them to participate in the economic, social, political and cultural life of society.

4. Ukraine became a member of the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995 and assumed various commitments in respect of this organization. One of these commitments that has been fulfilled by Ukraine was the adoption of a new Constitution based on democratic principles and reflecting that of the rule of law.

5. On 28 June 1996, Ukraine's Parliament, namely, the Supreme Council, adopted the Constitution - the fundamental law of Ukraine. Ukraine acquired yet another attribute of statehood by embodying the principle that human rights and freedoms and their guarantees determine the essence and orientation of the activity of the State in the Constitution (art. 3, second paragraph).

6. The Constitution proclaimed Ukraine to be a sovereign and independent, democratic, social, law-based State (art. 1). The Constitution is protected by law and Ukraine's laws are conditioned by its Constitution. The Constitution states that international agreements which have been ratified by Ukraine's Supreme Council are part of national legislation.

7. Article 24 of the Constitution states that all citizens have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and prohibits discrimination based on race, colour of skin, political, religious and other beliefs, ethnic and social origin, property status, linguistic or other characteristics. Article 26 guarantees foreigners and stateless persons who are in Ukraine on legal grounds the same rights and freedoms as citizens of Ukraine, with the exceptions established by the Constitution, laws or international treaties of Ukraine.

8. It should be emphasized that the European Commission's draft conclusions on Ukraine's Constitution, "Democracy through law", of 17 January 1997, state that the list of rights protected and guaranteed by Ukraine's Constitution is sufficiently comprehensive to demonstrate the desire to protect the entire series of rights guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and is convincing proof of the possibility that these rights can be realized in practice.

9. It may be added that, on 9 November 1995, Ukraine signed Protocols 2 and 11, and, on 19 December 1996, Protocols 1, 4 and 7 to this Convention.

10. On 15 September 1995, it signed the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and all the documents required in connection with the ratification of the Convention have now been prepared and submitted to Ukraine's Supreme Council.

11. On 27 January 1997, the various documents required in connection with the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, signed by Ukraine on 2 May 1996, were submitted to Ukraine's Supreme Council.

12. The following international agreements are in effect in Ukraine: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ILO Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

13. Ukraine has drawn up a State Convention for the Protection of Human Rights which will be submitted to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers in March this year. A convention on Ukrainian State policy on the rights of indigenous peoples has been prepared and submitted to a large number of international human rights organizations for international legal appraisal.

14. Legislative action is being taken to bring national legislation into line with European norms and standards and universal international legal principles. Legislation on the legal status of foreigners and stateless persons and on procedures for granting foreigners and stateless persons asylum in Ukraine are being drafted.

PART II - INFORMATION RELATING TO ARTICLES 2 TO 7 OF THE CONVENTION

Article 2

15. In its efforts to overcome the nefarious consequences of the USSR's policy of virtually depriving nationalities of their individuality, Ukraine is adopting legislation as well as other measures to preserve the national cultural identity of its ethnic groups. The fact that Ukraine is one of the few States among those that emerged on the territory of the former USSR which has so far not been the scene of inter-ethnic conflicts is to a great extent explained by its considered and tolerant State ethnic policy.

16. In the course of a relatively short period, a political and legal basis for the regulation of ethnic and national processes that takes into account

and ensures the harmonious development and optimum balance of the interests of various ethnic groups was created and is still being improved. A Declaration of the Rights of National Minorities in Ukraine was adopted, as well as a series of laws, namely, the Act on Ukrainian Citizenship, the Act on National Minorities in Ukraine, the Act on Minority Languages in Ukraine, the Education Act, the Act on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations, and the Basic Principles of Ukrainian Legislation on Culture, which guarantee to Ukrainian citizens equal political, economic, social and cultural rights, the right to develop the languages and cultures of all ethnic groups, and respect and support for their cultural identity.

17. At the present time, preparations are being made for the ratification of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages, which will constitute a further step towards ensuring tolerant coexistence and mutual respect for various ethnic groups.

18. The State is promoting the return and rehabilitation of persons deported under the totalitarian regime on grounds of national origin. Since achieving independence, Ukraine has consistently earmarked considerable resources from its budget for the rehabilitation of deportees and for the solution of cultural and educational problems. The Government has approved a special programme of priority measures for the resettlement and rehabilitation of over 250,000 Crimean Tatars as well as persons of other nationalities who have returned to the Crimea in recent years. Ukraine's efforts in this respect are being supported by the international community. Special measures are being taken under the United Nations Development Programme to assist persons deported to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. These programmes are elaborated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

19. The new relationship established between the State and the Church is embodied in Ukraine's Constitution. It contains a number of provisions which were previously lacking in national legislation. For example, the preamble to the Constitution refers not only to responsibility before one's own conscience, past, present and future generations, but also before God, and article 35 guarantees citizens the freedom to profess or not to profess any religion, to perform alone or collectively and without constraint religious rites and ceremonial rituals, and to conduct religious activity. Moreover, under article 11, the State is required to promote the religious identity of all indigenous peoples and national minorities of Ukraine.

20. A draft outline of State ecclesiastical policy has been drawn up which, in accordance with the Constitution and the norms of international law, defines the strategy of State-Church relationships, the main priorities of State policy in respect of religion and the Church, as well as ways and means of realizing them. The salient features of this strategy are as follows: the establishment of effective machinery to implement constitutional guarantees of freedom of beliefs and religion; the elaboration of a legislative basis for the establishment of harmonious State-Church relationships, fully guaranteeing the legal and social status of the Church in society; support for the activities of religious organizations in the performance of their statutory functions; the depoliticization of religious activities and the elimination of

the possible wrenching impact of interdenominational conflicts on society; support for the development of the religious individuality of indigenous peoples and national minorities in Ukraine; and prevention of religious intolerance or discrimination on religious grounds.

21. The creation in Ukraine of a constitutional and legal basis guaranteeing freedom of beliefs and religion has helped to overcome the adverse impact of the past on religious and Church matters, stimulated religious and spiritual life in Ukraine and, in the final analysis, promoted interdenominational harmony and understanding. In the four years that have elapsed since Ukraine achieved its independence, the total number of religious bodies has increased by one third and comprises 17,600 communities and 65 denominations, trends and tendencies. The number of ecclesiastical educational establishments and monasteries has increased more than threefold, missions and brotherhoods fivefold, and publications sixfold. Almost all traditional denominations in Ukraine have their own educational establishments which are staffed by about 15,000 persons.

22. The material basis of the Church has improved considerably. The State has returned 3,000 places of worship and over 8,000 items of Church property. Over 1,000 temples have been constructed and about 2,000 places of worship are being built.

23. The State is helping to develop the religious individuality of national minorities by promoting their religious infrastructure, creating favourable conditions for their activities and expanding links with churches abroad. Last year Ukraine was visited by over 3,000 members of the faithful from 15 different countries while over 1,000 Ukrainian faithful went on visits abroad.

24. No discrimination on religious grounds is apparent in connection with the revitalization of the State's religious and spiritual activities. Interdenominational conflicts, however, are a source of concern although they are showing signs of diminishing. On the one hand, they reflect attempts by various denominations (Orthodox and Catholic) to expand their spheres of influence and disputes concerning leadership and the use of local temples and, on the other, they are the result of interference by certain local authorities in religious and church matters and attempts by various political forces to consolidate their position by supporting this or that church and its congregation.

25. Generally speaking, interdenominational conflicts are becoming less acute as a result of the depoliticization of the underlying problems. Yet this does not exclude the possibility of further religious flare-ups owing to the persistence of the factors mentioned above. However, the State, which does not interfere in canon and ecclesiastical law, has adequate constitutional and legal means at its disposal to neutralize or prevent such conflicts.

26. A number of recent initiatives were aimed at consolidating the harmonious atmosphere prevailing in the religious sphere. Specifically, the President of Ukraine, L.D. Kuchma, held a meeting with religious personalities of Ukraine at which ways of creating favourable conditions for religious

activities were decided upon. Moreover, the All-Ukrainian Union of Churches was established, its basic function being to consolidate interdenominational peace and harmony and to coordinate the social activities of religious organizations.

Article 3

27. Draft provisions amending and supplementing existing laws have been drawn up in order to bring national legislation into line with international agreements on the protection of the rights of national minorities signed by Ukraine and also to improve legal machinery for preventing the emergence of adverse tendencies in inter-ethnic relations. For this purpose, the proposals made by public associations and ethnic minorities were taken into account, particularly in the drafting of proposals to amend and supplement the Act on National Minorities in Ukraine. This was done, for example, in respect of article 18, prohibiting and providing for punishment under the Act for any restriction of the rights and freedoms of citizens on national or racial grounds. In the new draft of this article, prohibition and punishment is extended to "acts intended to incite inter-ethnic, racial and religious hostility". These draft provisions are being considered by the Government of Ukraine.

28. Steps are being taken to improve existing machinery for preventing the emergence of adverse tendencies in inter-ethnic relations. A special interdepartmental commission, with statutory powers to evaluate publications appearing in Ukraine from a legal and technical standpoint and responsible for monitoring and taking action to prevent the emergence of any adverse social trends reflecting racism, chauvinism or religious intolerance, was created in June 1996.

29. Under the Constitution of Ukraine, no ideology may be recognized by the State as mandatory. Moreover, the State guarantees freedom of political activity not prohibited by the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine (art. 15, second and fourth paragraphs). Political parties and public associations whose programme goals or actions are aimed at the incitement of inter-ethnic, racial or religious enmity are prohibited (art. 37).

30. The first paragraph of article 144 of the Constitution states that bodies of local self-government adopt decisions only within the limits of authority determined by law. Such bodies may not encourage or incite racial discrimination.

31. As was indicated in the twelfth periodic report, the new version of article 66 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code which states "Disregard of the equality of citizens' rights on the grounds of their race, nationality or attitude to religion" has been in force since 12 September 1991.

Articles 4, 5 and 6

32. According to article 21 of the Constitution, all people are free and equal in their dignity and rights. Human rights and freedoms are inalienable and inviolable. Moreover, article 27 states that every person has the inalienable right to life. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life. The

duty of the State is to protect human life. In addition, under article 28, everyone has the right to respect of his or her dignity. No one shall be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment that violates his or her dignity. On 24 January 1997, Ukraine ratified the European Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

33. The political rights of national minorities are guaranteed by articles 9 and 14 of the Act on National Minorities in Ukraine. According to article 9 of this Act, persons belonging to national minorities have the right to be elected or appointed on an equal footing to any position in legislative, executive, judiciary, local or regional self-government bodies, the army, enterprises, institutions and organizations. Public associations of ethnic minorities have the right under article 14 to present candidates in elections to central and local government bodies.

34. At the present time, representatives of 12 nationalities are deputies in Ukraine's Parliament. The State Committee on Nationalities and Migration - the central State executive body responsible for inter-ethnic relations - has its own advisory organ, namely, the Council of Representatives of Public Associations of National Minorities of the Ukraine. Similar advisory bodies are attached to local authorities in areas where there are national minorities.

35. These provisions of Ukrainian legislation offer national minorities the possibility of actively influencing the formulation and implementation of State policy in matters involving their interests. The Constitution guarantees to everyone who is legally present on the territory of Ukraine freedom of movement, free choice of place of residence, and the right to freely leave the territory of Ukraine, with the exception of restrictions established by law (first para. of art. 33).

36. In 1992 and 1993, moreover, a number of regulations were adopted with a view to liberalizing the procedure governing entry into and departure from the country; this process culminated in January 1994 with the adoption of the Act on procedure governing departure from Ukraine and entry into Ukraine for Ukrainian citizens. This Act governs the implementation of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and specifically those in article 33.

37. The situation as regards temporary business or pleasure trips abroad by Ukrainian citizens is as follows: in 1992, over 1,895,000 persons received authorization to make single trips; in 1993, 1,273,000 persons were granted passports enabling them to make multiple trips abroad; the corresponding figures for 1994 and 1995 were 1,328,000 and 756,000. The number of Ukrainian citizens leaving to take up permanent residence abroad in 1992 was 35,100; the corresponding figures for 1993, 1994 and 1995 were 36,800, 44,800 and 37,900.

38. In 1995, the applications of 1,050 persons (0.14 per cent of the total) for passports authorizing them to stay temporarily abroad were rejected for duly established legal reasons, and the applications of only 29 persons (0.076 per cent of the total) for passports authorizing them to take up permanent residence abroad were rejected.

39. The number of foreigners entering Ukraine for short business stays was as follows: 114,700 in 1992, 50,500 in 1993, 264,500 in 1994 and 92,600 in 1995.

40. Continuing efforts are being made to improve Ukraine's visa policy and to simplify formalities governing departure from and entry into the country.

41. The right to Ukrainian citizenship is embodied in the Constitution. Specifically, the second paragraph of article 25 states that a citizen of Ukraine cannot be expelled from Ukraine or surrendered to another State. Nor may a citizen of Ukraine be deprived of citizenship and of the right to change citizenship (first para. of art. 25).

42. Article 51 of the Constitution states that each of the spouses has equal rights and duties in the marriage and family, and that marriage is based on the free consent of a woman and a man.

43. Moreover, under article 41, everyone has the right to own, use and dispose of his or her property, and the results of his or her intellectual and creative activity.

44. Article 34 guarantees everyone the right to freedom of thought and speech, and the free expression of his or her views and beliefs.

45. According to article 35, everyone has the right to freedom of personal philosophy and religion. The exercise of this right may be restricted by law only in the interests of protecting public order, the health and morality of the population, or protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons.

46. Article 39 guarantees the right to assemble peacefully without arms and to hold meetings, rallies, processions and demonstrations, upon notifying in advance the bodies of executive power or bodies of local self-government.

47. The right to labour, the free choice of type of labour and healthy working conditions are guaranteed by article 43. The State undertakes to create conditions for citizens fully to realize their right to labour.

48. The third paragraph of article 36 guarantees citizens the right to take part in trade unions with the purpose of protecting their labour and socio-economic rights and interests.

49. Everyone's right to housing is guaranteed by article 47. The State creates conditions that enable every citizen to build, purchase as property, or to rent housing.

50. Article 49 states that everyone has the right to health protection, medical care and medical insurance. Health protection is ensured through State funding of the relevant socio-economic, medical and sanitary, health improvement and prophylactic programmes.

51. Under article 48 everyone has the right to a standard of living sufficient for himself or herself and his or her family.

52. Article 55 states that human and citizens' rights and freedoms are protected by the court. Moreover, after exhausting all domestic legal remedies (the human rights court authorized by the Supreme Council), everyone has the right to appeal for the protection of his or her rights and freedoms to the relevant international judicial institutions or to the relevant bodies of international organizations of which Ukraine is a member or participant.

53. Lastly, under article 56 of the Constitution, everyone has the right to compensation, at the expense of the State or bodies of local self-government, for material and moral damages inflicted by unlawful decisions, actions or omission of bodies of State power, bodies of local self-government, their officials and officers during the exercise of their authority.

54. The Act on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine was adopted on 16 November 1996.

55. The post of ombudsman, namely, the authorized human rights representative of the Supreme Council, was created in accordance with the Constitution. An act specifying his functions, rights and obligations is being drafted. A large body of international legislation on this matter is being studied since this notion did not exist in our country before 1996.

56. The drafting of the concept of judicial-legal reform is being completed. Draft legislation on the status of the courts, on the supreme council of justice, on qualifying commissions and on the executive service is also being drawn up.

Article 7

57. In accordance with article 6 of the Act on National Minorities in Ukraine, the State guarantees all national minorities the right to national and cultural autonomy. In promoting the implementation of this right and promoting in every possible way the formation of multinational inter-ethnic associations of citizens, the State provides organizational and financial assistance to 270 associations of national minorities. Cultural centres, higher educational establishments, schools, theatres, museums, libraries for national minorities, cultural circles and courses for learning mother tongues are being created on the initiative of these associations and with State support.

58. In accordance with article 16 of this Act, special allocations are to be made under Ukraine's State budget to develop the culture of national minorities.

59. Article 53 of the Constitution guarantees the right to education. In the Ukraine, complete general secondary education is compulsory. Moreover, all the necessary conditions have been created in Ukraine for the unrestricted use of the languages of national minorities in the national education system.

A system of general education schools in which various languages of instruction are to be used is being created in the light of the educational needs of ethnic groups.

60. Of the 21,349 schools that were operational during the 1995-1996 school year in Ukraine, 2,965 provided instruction in Russian, 98 in Romanian, 61 in Hungarian, 11 in Moldavian, 5 in Hebrew, 3 in Polish and 1 in Crimean-Tatar. In other words, instruction in 15 per cent of all schools was in the language of a national minority. Moreover, in 2,339 schools (11 per cent of the total) one of the languages of instruction was also the language of a national minority

61. About 60 Sunday schools, at which over 73,000 pupils learn their mother tongue, have been created. During the past year, the number of languages studied at general education and Sunday schools and at various courses were supplemented by Armenian, Aisor, Gagauz, Tatar, Turkish, Turkish-Meskhetian and Uzbek. Teachers of national minority languages and literature are being trained at 15 higher educational establishments in Ukraine. Moreover, the State programme for the revival and development of education for national minorities up to the year 2,000 was adopted in 1994 in order to satisfy the educational requirements of national minorities more fully.

62. In addition to general education in Ukraine, article 53 of the Constitution also guarantees the right to free higher education in State and communal educational establishments on a competitive basis.

63. Article 54 of the Constitution guarantees to all citizens the freedom of literary, artistic, scientific and technical creativity. Ukraine's cultural heritage is protected by law. The cultural and information needs of national minorities are satisfied by 48 newspapers published in the languages of these minorities. The annual number of hours of television and radio broadcasting in the languages of national minorities is 1,225 and 1,988 respectively. In 1994 60 titles were published in 19 languages of national minorities; the corresponding figure for 1995 was over 100 titles. The above-mentioned State programme to develop the culture of national minorities up to the year 2000 will meet the cultural needs of national minorities.

64. Steps are being taken to improve existing machinery for preventing the emergence of adverse tendencies in inter-ethnic relations. For example, a special interdepartmental commission, with statutory powers to evaluate publications appearing in Ukraine from a legal and technical standpoint and responsible for monitoring and taking action to prevent the emergence of any adverse social tendencies reflecting racism, chauvanism, religious intolerance, etc. was created in June 1996.

65. There are no restrictions of any kind based on racial, ethnic, national, linguistic or other grounds on access to any position or any type of service available to the public, such as transport, hotels, restaurants, cafes, theatres and parks. Any restrictions in this area are actionable under the law, and specifically under article 66 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

66. In complying with its international obligations to protect the rights of national minorities on its territory, Ukraine expresses the hope that the rights of the 12 million ethnic Ukrainians living in other States will be protected in a similar fashion. In order to contribute to the solution of their cultural, spiritual, educational, social and economic problems, the State Committee on Nationalities and Minorities has drawn up a special State programme entitled "The Ukrainian diaspora up to the year 2000". Ukraine considers that multilateral and bilateral agreements between States offer the best possibility of protecting the rights of Ukrainians abroad. In this connection, Ukraine has been consistently guided by the generally recognized norms of international law and specifically the principles of inviolability, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

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UNITED NATIONS
COLLECTION

REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER
ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Fourteenth periodic reports of States parties due in 1994

Addendum

RUSSIAN FEDERATION*

[22 April 1997]

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* This document contains the fourteenth periodic report, due on 6 March 1996. For the thirteenth periodic report of the Russian Federation and the summary records of the meetings at which the Committee considered that report, see documents CERD/C/263/Add.9 and CERD/C/SR.1133-1134.

Committee members may consult the supporting information supplied by the Russian Federation in the secretariat files.

The information submitted by the Russian Federation in accordance with the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of the reports of States parties is contained in the basic document HRI/CORE/1/Add.52/Rev 1.

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Introduction

1. This report is submitted in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and has been compiled in conformity with the general guidelines regarding the form and content of reports to be submitted by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention (CERD/C/70/Rev.3).

2. It covers the period from February 1996 to January 1997 inclusive, and includes a description of events that have taken place since the submission of the twelfth and thirteenth reports of the Russian Federation (CERD/C/263/Add.9) in February 1996.

3. Account has been taken of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination after its consideration of the twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports of the Russian Federation (CERD/C/304/Add.5).

4. As recommended by the Committee in paragraph 24 of document CERD/C/304/Add.5, annexes 1 and 2 to the report present further information on the percentage breakdown by ethno-linguistic group of the population of the Russian Federation.

5. Annex 3 provides a separate account of the human rights situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation (as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in paragraph 22 of document CERD/C/304/Add.5).

6. The information Russia is required to provide under the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of the reports of States parties appears in the core document, HRI/CORE/1/Add.52.

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

7. The prohibition of racial discrimination is one of the staple provisions of the 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation. This is fully consistent with the Federation's obligations under the main international agreements on human rights.

8. Article 19 of the Constitution, in particular, states that:

> "1. Everyone shall be equal before the law and the courts.
>
> "2. The State shall guarantee equality of rights and freedoms regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, material and official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, convictions, membership of public associations or other circumstances. All limitations of human rights on social, racial, national, linguistic or religious grounds shall be prohibited."

9. Article 26 of the Constitution establishes the right of every individual to "determine and state his national identity. No one may be forced to determine or state his national identity". Subparagraph 2 of the same article

affords everyone without exception the right "to use his native language, and to free choice of language for communication, education, training and creative work".

10. Another important constitutional clause to prohibit discrimination of any kind in Russian society is article 29, paragraph 2, which states: "Propaganda or campaigning in favour of social, racial, national or religious hatred and strife shall not be permitted. Propagating social, racial, national, religious or linguistic superiority shall be forbidden."

11. Pursuant to these constitutional provisions, new legislation and ordinances have been passed during the period covered by this report, and more are in preparation.

12. The 1960 Penal Code was in effect in the Russian Federation until 31 December 1996. Article 74 of the Code made it a criminal offence to engage in deliberate acts intended to stir up national, racial or religious hatred or discord, to detract from national honour or dignity, to promote the idea of exclusiveness or the inferiority of citizens because of their religious beliefs, nationality or race, or directly or indirectly to restrict the rights of, or establish privileges for, citizens because of their race, nationality or attitude to religion.

13. Article 74 also laid down punishments for such acts, whether in the form of public statements or appeals, inter alia in the press or other mass media, the production and distribution of pamphlets, posters and banners, or the organization of or attendance at meetings, political gatherings and demonstrations for the aforementioned purposes.

14. Over the period covered by this report up to 1 January 1997 (when the new Penal Code took effect), the courts considered several cases brought under article 74 of the former Code which resulted in guilty verdicts. The most notable was a decision in March 1996 by the Yaroslavl oblast (regional court) in a case involving the Nazi terrorist "Werewolf Legion". Among other offences, the defendants were charged with fomenting inter-ethnic discord. The court found all charges proven and sentenced all four defendants to various terms of imprisonment.

15. Over the same period, one case went directly to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (in re: V.I. Novodvorskaya). It had been referred back by the Moscow Municipal Court to the investigative authorities for further investigation. The criminal division of the Supreme Court, hearing the case on 23 December 1996 in response to a private appeal by the Government Prosecutor, agreed with the Municipal Court's ruling that the case needed further investigation but modified the preventive measures ordered, setting personal bail instead of requiring a signed undertaking not to leave the vicinity.

16. As mentioned above, the new Penal Code took effect on 1 January 1997, replacing the largely outdated 1960 Code. It makes significant changes to the penal legislation prohibiting discrimination on any grounds. Chapter I, article 4, on the purposes and principles of the Code, states that "offenders

shall be equal before the law and may be held criminally responsible regardless of their sex, race, nationality, language, origin, material and official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, convictions, membership of public associations or other circumstances".

17. Article 63, section 1 (e), of the Code lays down the general rule that having "motives of national, racial or religious hatred or enmity" for committing a crime is an aggravating circumstance. Having "motives of national, racial or religious hatred or enmity" also constitutes grounds for the imposition of severer penalties under five articles of the Penal Code: article 105 (homicide), article 111 (deliberate infliction of grievous bodily harm), article 112 (deliberate infliction of moderate bodily harm), article 117 (torture) and article 244 (desecration of mortal remains or places of burial).

18. Further to the constitutional clause guaranteeing equality of rights, article 136 of the new Penal Code, "Violation of equal rights", in the chapter on crimes against individuals' constitutional and civic rights and freedoms, states:

> "1. Violations of equal rights, in connection with sex, race, nationality, language, origin, material and official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, convictions or membership of public associations, causing damage to citizens' rights and legitimate interests shall be punishable by a fine of between 200 and 500 times the minimum wage, or of the wages or other income of the perpetrator for a period of between two and five months, or by imprisonment of up to two years.
>
> "2. The same offence, when committed by a person taking advantage of his official position, shall be punishable by a fine of between 500 and 800 times the minimum wage, or of the wages or other income of the perpetrator for a period of between five and eight months, or by deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in particular activities for a period of between two and five years, or by imprisonment of up to three years."

19. A separate article, No. 282, in the chapter on crimes against the underpinnings of constitutional order and State security, is devoted to the definition of the offence of arousing national, racial or religious hatred. This states:

> "1. Efforts to arouse national, racial or religious hatred, to demean national worth, or to propagate the exclusivity, superiority or inferiority of citizens on the basis of their attitude to religion, nationality or race shall, if committed in public or through the mass media, be punishable by a fine of between 500 and 800 times the minimum wage, or of the wages or other income of the perpetrator for a period of between five and eight months, or by restrictions on the perpetrator's freedom for a period of up to three years, or by imprisonment of between two and four years.

"2. The same offence, when:

(a) accompanied by violence or the threat of violence,

(b) committed by an individual taking advantage of his official position, or

(c) committed by an organized group

shall be punishable by imprisonment of between three and five years."

20. One feature that sets the new Penal Code apart from the 1960 Code is article 347, entitled "Genocide". Under that article, actions intended to bring about the "full or partial extermination of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group by killing or causing grievous bodily harm to its members, forcibly preventing them from bearing children, forcing them to surrender their children, forcibly resettling or otherwise creating living conditions designed to bring about the physical annihilation of members of the said group", constitute a criminal offence punishable by sanctions up to and including the death penalty.

21. Rules protecting people from all forms of discrimination are to be found in a series of laws besides the penal legislation. The Family Code, for example, states that "restrictions of any kind on the rights of citizens entering into matrimony or in family relations on social, racial, national, linguistic or religious grounds are prohibited" (art. 1, para. 4).

22. Similar provisions are to be found in the Labour Code of the Russian Federation (art. 16, Hiring safeguards) and in other legislation.

23. Since the submission of the previous report, the Russian Federal Assembly has done a significant amount of legislative work to ensure equality and non-discrimination in the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural and other spheres of public life.

24. The State Duma Committee on Nationalities has been at work on the following federal laws: the National Cultural Autonomy Act; the basic underpinnings of the legal status of Russia's small indigenous peoples; the Peoples of Russia (Languages) Act; the National Minorities Act; the Refugees and Displaced Persons (Assistance Fund) Act; the Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East (Communities) Act; the Regions of Traditional Land Use Act; the Outline of Russian State Policy on Nationalities (Implementing Machinery) Act; the Local Self-Government in Areas Inhabited by National Minorities and the Small Indigenous Peoples of Russia (General Principles) Act; the Territorial Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples (Extension of Transitional Period) Act; and the Fundamental Principles governing relations between territories, oblasts and their constituent autonomous districts.

25. The Committee on Nationalities regularly conducts parliamentary hearings on key aspects of national policy. Hearings have been held on:

(a) the Outline of Russian State Policy on Nationalities;

(b) action to cope with the aftermath of the Ossete-Ingush conflict of October-November 1992; two sets of hearings were conducted on this subject, in Moscow and in Nazran;

(c) concerted action by the representative and executive bodies of the Russian Federation and its constituent entities, and by federal-level and local public organizations and associations, to secure the release of forcibly detained military personnel and civilians and locate people missing in the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic and neighbouring areas;

(d) the Outline of Russian State Policy on Nationalities and the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

26. Material from many of the hearings, such as those on the Outline of Russian State Policy on Nationalities, has been published. Material from the hearings on action to cope with the aftermath of the Ossete-Ingush conflict of October-November 1992 is in press.

27. In 1997 the Committee plans to continue its work on the draft legislation on the underpinnings of the legal status of Russia's small indigenous peoples, extension of the transitional period for the territorial rehabilitation of repressed peoples, national minorities, amendments to the Federal Act on Local Self-government in the Russian Federation (organizational principles) areas of traditional land use, the assistance fund for refugees and displaced persons; it will also work on bills dealing with communities of the small indigenous peoples of the Far North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, the underpinnings of ethnic relations in the Russian Federation for implementing the Outline of Russian State Policy and Nationalities, the rehabilitation of repressed peoples, rehabilitation of the Chechen people under the RSFSR law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples, rehabilitation of the Ingush people and rehabilitation of the Russian Germans.

28. The National Cultural Autonomy Act entered into force (as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in paragraph 15 of its concluding observations) on 17 July 1996.

29. The main aim of the Act is to ensure de facto equality of all ethnic communities in the consistent assertion of every Russian citizen's rights and freedoms regarding his or her national origins.

30. The purpose of the Act is to offer the members of all ethnic communities, particularly national minorities, guarantees of national cultural autonomy as one form of national and cultural self-determination and self-organization.

31. According to the Act, national cultural autonomy implies the satisfaction of ethnic groups' cultural and spiritual needs and the preservation and development of crucial components of ethnic identity such as

traditions, lifestyles, languages, education, art and self-awareness. National development policy and programmes conducted by means of national cultural autonomy can embrace culturally distinct groups irrespective of their size and distribution, extending down to the tiniest communities and individual citizens.

32. The objectives of national cultural autonomy are pursued through public initiatives, self-organization and the involvement of ordinary citizens. Cultural development programmes shaped within this framework are designed to meet the real needs of national minorities.

33. Pursuant to article 7 of the Act, Order No. 1517 by the Government of the Russian Federation dated 18 December 1996 established an advisory council on national cultural autonomy under the Government of the Russian Federation. The establishment of this deliberative body at the governmental level was to permit constructive interaction between the Government and ethnic communities so as to give a genuine impression of the mood among a significant sector - ethnically the most sensitive - of the Russian population. As initially set up, the Advisory Council includes representatives of Russia's national associations - Assyrian, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Georgian, Korean, Greek, German, Polish, Moldavian, Kurdish, Jewish and other.

34. Representatives of many diasporas have already applied for local and regional national cultural autonomy. A conference to establish German national cultural autonomy has been held in Saratov oblast, and one for Tver's Karelians in Tver oblast. District-level Turkic national cultural autonomy has been established in the Yamal-Nenetsk Autonomous Area (November 1996), bringing together representatives of Turkic peoples and ethnic groups; there is now a monthly newspaper, Türk Donyasi.

35. On 12 February 1997 the State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly passed in second reading a federal bill banning the propagation of fascism in the Russian Federation. The passage of the bill is intended to strengthen legal mechanisms for preventing and putting a stop to propaganda for fascism, in part by setting State bodies to counter such propaganda and bring those responsible to justice.

36. Of cardinal importance to the protection of individuals from all forms of discrimination is article 17 of the Russian Constitution, which states that "basic rights and liberties in conformity with the commonly recognized principles and norms of international law shall be recognized and guaranteed" in Russia.

37. Article 15, paragraph 4, of the Constitution states that "the commonly recognized principles and norms of international law and international treaties of the Russian Federation shall be a component part of its legal system. If an international treaty of the Russian Federation stipulates rules other than those stipulated by the law, the rules of the international treaty shall apply."

38. In practical terms, this means that international law can be applied directly by the courts. Individuals and bodies corporate can invoke international law directly in disputes with State bodies, enterprises,

institutions or organizations. A special order, No. 8, dated 31 October 1995, entitled "some matters relating to the application by the courts of the Constitution of the Russian Federation in the administration of justice", has been passed by the plenum of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The explanatory matter states that "in considering a case, the court may not apply an act governing legal relations if an international treaty which has entered into force for the Russian Federation, and in respect of which the contingent obligations for the Russian Federation have been accepted in the form of a Federal Act, establishes rules other than those laid down in the said Act. In such cases, the rules established by the international treaty shall apply."

II. ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

39. Under the Office of the Government Procurator Act, keeping a constant check on compliance with the law in Russia is the responsibility of the Government Prosecutor's Office and its local branches. During the period under consideration, the Office has conducted repeated checks on compliance with constitutional and legislative requirements banning discrimination.

40. Checks have been made on compliance with legislation governing the registration of political parties and public organizations and requiring their activities to be monitored for consistency with their founding missions and objectives. Several public organizations were found to be in violation, and the Government Prosecutor's Office took appropriate action in response. For example, on application from the Government Prosecutor's Office in Rostov oblast, a court set aside an order by the Council of Atamans of the Cossack Union which limited citizens' rights on ethnic grounds.

41. A constant concern of the Office is to coordinate action by all law enforcement and other State bodies to combat fascism and other forms of political extremism. In the light of the current situation, and based on a critical analysis of law-enforcement practice and the findings of comprehensive checks, changes have been made to the ways they detect, intercept and prevent infringements of rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and unconstitutional moves to foment inter-ethnic and religious divisions.

42. During the period under consideration, a number of criminal cases relating to criminal violations of citizens' equal rights were brought and investigated. Coordinated action by the forces of law and order in several constituent entities of the Russian Federation put a stop to open manifestations by members of extremist organizations and identified a series of sites where printed, audio, video, film and photographic material of racist and nationalistic content was produced: hundreds of examples of such products were seized.

III. LEGAL PROTECTION

43. Paragraph 21 of the concluding observations by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/304/Add.5) recommends enhanced legal protection through the national courts against any acts of racism, by

strengthening the court system and the independence of the judiciary. It should be pointed out that these recommendations are consistent with current efforts to reform the judiciary in Russia.

44. The Russian Constitution, the Status of Judges Act, the Regulations on judges' training colleges and judicial bodies and other legislation are all intended to heighten the authority of the judiciary and promote law enforcement.

45. The Judicial System Act came into force on 26 December 1996: it contains guarantees of independence in the administration of justice.

46. Russian law enforcement practice has become substantially more varied in recent times: the courts have begun to consider cases involving citizens' exercise of their voting rights, the rights to found political parties and other public organizations, disputes between Governmental bodies, and challenges to decisions handed down by Governmental authorities.

47. Considerable effort has gone into training and retraining judges in matters relating to the exercise of citizens' rights and freedoms. Use is being made both of opportunities at home and of the experience and assistance of foreign judges. Since the submission of the previous report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, international seminars, theoretical and practical, for judges have been held in various parts of the Russian Federation and beyond in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Council of Europe, and a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

IV. THE OUTLINE OF RUSSIAN STATE POLICY ON NATIONALITIES

48. The adoption of the Outline of Russian State Policy on Nationalities, confirmed by Presidential Decree No. 909 of 15 June 1996, was a significant event. The Outline, which takes account of the unique system of national/State and administrative/territorial arrangements resulting from a protracted and complicated historical process, and of Russia's particular ethnic composition, lays down basic principles and approaches for use in addressing burning problems in relations between different nationalities.

49. According to the Outline, the main principles of Russian State policy on nationality are:

(a) Equality of rights and freedoms irrespective of nationality, language, attitude to religion or membership of social groups and public associations;

(b) Equality of ethnic groups;

(c) Guaranteed rights for small indigenous and scattered ethnic groups, as required by the Constitution and by generally recognized principles and standards of international law;

(d) Support for the development of the cultures and languages of Russia's ethnic groups;

(e) The prohibition of any kind of restriction on citizens' rights based on nationality, language, social or religious connections, etc.

50. The main political priorities underlying the Outline are cooperation, mutual understanding and unity among Russia's ethnic groups, and the inculcation into all citizens, irrespective of their nationality, of the idea of equal rights. The Outline seeks to improve the machinery for the conduct of nationalities policy by combining the efforts of the Federal central authorities, the authorities in the constituent entities of the Federation, and the ethnic communities.

51. The draft plan of action to put the Outline into effect comprises a system of legislative and organizational measures, socio-economic and cultural programmes to improve relations among ethnic groups, satisfy the national interests of all ethnic groups in the Russian Federation, and consolidate ethnic peace and harmony.

52. The draft plan includes five sections:

(a) The formulation of instruments to regulate amendments to the Federal system and the harmonization of ethnic relations.

(b) The formulation and execution of Federal and regional socio-economic, national and cultural development programmes for the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and individual ethnic groups in Russia. This includes socio-economic development programmes for the Republic of North Ossetia/Alania (Order No. 269 by the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 12 March 1996), the Republic of Buryatia (Decree No. 543 by the President of the Russian Federation, dated 29 May 1995, and Order No. 442 by the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 5 April 1996), and the Republic of Mordova (Order No. 1257 by the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 26 December 1995); programmes concerned with individual ethnic groups include further action to rehabilitate the Russian Germans (Decree No. 811 by the President of the Russian Federation, dated 6 June 1996), the revival and development of the cultures of the Finno-Ugric peoples (Order No. 348-P by the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 3 March 1993), and the revival and development of the Turkic peoples of the Russian Federation (Order No. 603-P by the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 6 May 1994).

(c) Prompt action to stabilize the ethno-political situation in the country and individual regions. This includes a programme to deal with the aftermath of the conflict between the Ingush part of the population and the Ossetes in the Republic of North Ossetia/Alania (paragraph 22 of the concluding observations by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), which is an integral part of the Government's regional policy on the northern Caucusus. One of the main tools of this policy is the Federal Programme for the socio-political development of the Republic of North Ossetia/Alania up to the year 2000, which was approved by order of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 269, dated 12 March 1996.

(i) Under this Programme, Federal ministries and governmental departments are taking steps to settle refugees and displaced persons from the conflict zone, making it possible for them to return to their former homes. The return of displaced persons to their former homes in the Republics of North Ossetia/Alania and Ingushetia is governed by a procedure agreed in Vladikavkaz on 20 April 1996 by the heads of Government of the two Republics in the presence of the Chairman of the Russian Federation's Interim State Committee on the Elimination of the Consequences of the Ossete/Ingush Conflict of October/November 1992.

(ii) Efforts by the local and central authorities to resuscitate the ruined economy of the Republic of North Ossetia/Alania and the Republic of Ingushetia are bearing fruit.

(iii) Some 1,926 displaced Ingush families (10,413 individuals) have been returned to settlements in the Prigorodny district. Three hundred and forty-nine homes, 195 Ossete and 154 Ingush, and four apartment buildings have been restored. Communal services and facilities are being reinstated. A total of 4,288 jobs have been created in the affected area.

(iv) Work to settle in returning Ingush and Ossetes socially and practically, and to rehabilitate them psychologically, is continuing. Disbursements (compensatory and otherwise) of 3.1 billion roubles were made in 1995 to 3,321 Ingush families (12,967 individuals) and 1,637 Ossete families (7,014 individuals) for property lost and accommodation damaged.

(v) More than 40 construction companies and 30 industrial enterprises have been involved in the work, and self-help brigades have been set up to restore housing. Water, gas and electricity have been laid on in all settlements in the Prigorodny district, radio and telephone services are in operation, and the restoration of domestic infrastructure and communications is nearing completion.

(vi) Steps are being taken to improve law and order and confiscate illegally held weapons. Five hundred and twenty-two firearms, 62 kilograms of explosives, 5,264 shells and rockets and 412 grenades were confiscated in 1996. The number of offences committed in the conflict region diminished in the second half of 1996.

(d) A series of political, socio-economic and public-information measures to stabilize the situation in and around the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation (information on this question is provided in appendix 3).

(e) Publicity for the Priority Action Scheme to give effect to the Outline of State policy on nationalities. This includes the design and

production, in conjunction with radio and television broadcasters, of a schedule of programmes publicizing and covering implementation of the Outline and the National Cultural Autonomy Act; and the production and broadcast of television and radio programmes devoted to the characteristic historical, cultural and religious and ethnic features of the various parts of the Russian Federation (which will be produced in the most widely-spoken languages of Russia's ethnic groups).

(i) Radio and television broadcasting in the languages of the ethnic groups living in Russia is currently being introduced. The television (AM TV - 27 channels) broadcasts a special programme in Ukrainian, and the radio and television company MIR is putting out a cycle of programmes entitled "Far from Home" on the problems of national diasporas.

(ii) Locally, the constituent entities of the Federation have richer experience. Newspapers and periodicals in Russia's various Republics and autonomous districts are generally published in Russian and the language of the people after which the local entity is named. Radio and television programmes are produced in the same languages. The various oblasts and districts of the Russian Federation have some experience of ethnic broadcasting and the publication of printed periodicals.

53. All this, of course, will require a considerable organizational effort and financing. Consideration is being given to the possibility of special financing for activities carried out pursuant to State policy on nationalities.

54. A number of constituent entities of the Federation have put a special lines in their budgets for activities designed to uphold their national individuality and promote the languages and cultures of the ethnic living there. Comprehensive district programmes for the development of ethnic cultures are under development and in operation.

55. There is a tendency for ethnic schools to expand in areas with a sizeable non-native population, using the ethnic language as the medium of instruction or a subject on the curriculum. Armenian is the language of instruction or is studied at 47 schools; Kazak at 85; Azerbaijani at 66; Turkmen at 19, and so forth. There are seven Jewish pre-school institutions and ordinary schools in Moscow, along with one Russian/Lithuanian, one Russian/Korean, one Russian/Georgian, one Armenian and one Tatar school; there is also a multinational educational complex where children of 15 different nationalities follow the general curriculum and study their native languages, and children of 20 different nationalities attend Sunday school.

56. St. Petersburg has the Polar Academy, founded by the Ministry of Nationalities and Federal Relations, the Ministry of Education, the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Polar Circle Association. It trains members of the indigenous peoples of the North to be Government administrators. Following the Academy initiative and thanks to the

organizational efforts of the Ministry of Nationalities and Federal Relations, the first-ever production-oriented educational institution for indigenous minorities - the Higher College of Ethnic Occupational Technology of the Ethnic Minorities in Russia - has opened in St. Petersburg as part of the State University of Technology and Design.

57. The Priority Action Scheme is intended to promote legislation and strengthen the authority of the law, fostering a culture of human rights and tolerance, while enhancing social protection for citizens of the Russian Federation.

58. Paragraph 17 of the Committee's concluding observations suggests that more attention should be paid to minorities and indigenous populations living in the North, taking appropriate action to advance and protect their rights, particularly the right to use and work the land in the areas they inhabit, and their lifestyles.

59. Small ethnic groups, in particular the peoples of the Russian North, which are in a difficult economic, social and cultural position, have come in for special attention from the State. A bill defining the underpinnings of the legal status of Russia's small indigenous peoples and a bill under preparation on traditional land use, together with special programmes - "Economic and social development of the small indigenous peoples of the North up to the year 2000", "The Children of the North" - and items covered in the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004, all seek to enable ethnic minorities to participate as equals in the management of State and public affairs, develop their traditional pursuits, to bring about spiritual renewal, to preserve and develop ethnic cultures and languages, and to restore damaged ecosystems.

Annex I

POPULATION OF THE CONSTITUENT ENTITIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION: REPUBLICS, AUTONOMOUS REGIONS, AREAS AND DISTRICTS, MOSCOW AND SAINT PETERSBURG, BY NATIONALITY/ETHNIC GROUP
(from 1989 census data)

Ethnic group/nationality	Size	Percentage of Russian population
TOTAL POPULATION	147 021 869	100.00
- of which -		
Russians	119 865 946	81.53
Tatars 1/	5 522 096	3.76
Ukrainians	4 362 872	2.97
Chuvash	1 773 645	1.21
Bashkirs	1 345 273	0.92
Belorussians	1 206 222	0.82
Mordvins	1 072 939	0.73
Chechens	898 999	0.61
Germans	842 295	0.57
Udmurts	714 833	0.49
Maris	643 698	0.44
Kazakhs	635 865	0.43
Avars 2/	544 016	0.37
Jews	536 848	0.37
Armenians	532 390	0.36
Buryats	417 425	0.28
Ossetes	402 275	0.27
Kabardins	386 055	0.26
Yakuts	380 242	0.26
Dargins 3/	353 348	0.24
Komi	336 309	0.23
Azerbaijanis	335 889	0.23
Kumyks	277 163	0.19
Lezghins	257 270	0.17
Ingush	215 068	0.15
Tuvans	206 160	0.14
Peoples of the North	181 517	0.12
Nenets	34 190	0.02
Evenks	29 901	0.02
Khants	22 283	0.02
Evens	17 055	0.01
Chukchi	15 107	0.01
Nanais	11 883	0.01
Koryaks	8 942	0.01
Mansi	8 279	0.01
Dolgans	6 584	...
Nivkh	4 631	...
Selkups	3 564	...
Ulchi	3 173	...
Itelmens	2 429	...
Udege	1 902	...

Saami	1 835	...
Eskimos	1 704	...
Chuvans	1 384	...
Nganasans	1 262	...
Yukagirs	1 112	...
Kets	1 084	...
Oroch	883	...
Tofalars	722	...
Aleuts	644	...
Negidals	587	...
Entsy	198	...
Oroks	179	...
Moldavians	172 671	0.12
Kalmyks	165 821	0.11
Gypsies	152 939	0.10
Karachai	150 332	0.10
Komi-Permyaks	147 269	0.10
Georgians	130 688	0.09
Uzbeks	126 899	0.09
Karelians	124 921	0.08
Adygei	122 908	0.08
Koreans	107 051	0.07
Laks	106 245	0.07
Poles	94 594	0.06
Tabasaran	93 587	0.06

Greeks	91 699	0.06
Khakas	78 500	0.05
Balkars	78 341	0.05
Nogai	73 703	0.05
Lithuanians	70 427	0.05
Altais	69 409	0.05
Cherkes	50 764	0.05
Finns 4/	47 102	0.03
Letts	46 829	0.03
Estonians	46 390	0.03
Kirgiz	41 734	0.03
Turkmens	39 739	0.03
Tajiks	38 208	0.03
Abazins	32 983	0.02
Bulgarians	32 785	0.02
Crimean Tatars	21 275	0.02
Rutuls	19 503	0.01
Tats	19 420	0.01
Aguls	17 728	0.01
Shors	15 745	0.01
Veps	12 142	0.01
Mountain Jews	11 282	0.01
Gagauz	10 051	0.01
Meskhet Turks	9 890	0.01
Assyrians	9 622	0.01

Abkhaz	7 239	0.01
Tsakhurs	6 492	...
Karakalpaks	6 155	...
Romanians	5 996	...
Hungarians	5 742	...
Chinese	5 197	...
Kurds	4 724	...
Czechs	4 375	...
Arabs	2 704	...
Uighurs	2 577	...
Iranians (Persians)	2 572	...
Vietnamese	2 142	...
Khalkha Mongols	2 117	...
Spaniards	2 054	...
Serbs	1 580	...
Cubans	1 566	...
Central Asian Jews	1 407	...
Georgian Jews	1 172	...
Udi	1 102	...
Afghans	858	...
Slovaks	711	...
Karaim	680	...
Dungans	635	...
Italians	627	...
Japanese	591	...
Indian and Pakistani peoples	535	...
Horvaths	479	...
Dutch	451	...
Izhors	449	...
French	352	...
Crimeans	338	...
Albanians	298	...
Baluchis	297	...
Austrians	295	...
British	223	...
Talysh	202	...
Americans	185	...
Livonians	64	...
Other	188 323	0.01

Source: *Narody Rossii, Entsyklopedia* (Moscow, 1994).

Notes

1/ Including Nagaibaks and Siberian Tatars.

2/ Including the Ando-Tsezian peoples and the Archi.

3/ Including Kaitaks and Kubachi.

4/ In fact, Finns and Ingermanlanders.

Annex II

ETHNIC/LINGUISTIC SITUATION AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(from 1989 census data)

People/ ethnic group	Size	Considering mother tongue to be						Also speak fluently						Do not speak another language	
		that of their nationality/ ethnic group		Russian		other		language of their nationality/ ethnic group		Russian		other languages			
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Abazins	32 983	30 989	93.9	1 402	4.3	592	1.8	195	0.6	25 899	78.5	1 159	3.5	5 730	17.4
Abkhaz	7 239	4 752	65.6	2 142	29.6	345	4.8	341	4.7	4 650	64.2	224	3.1	2 024	28.0
Adygeis	122 908	117 067	95.2	5 662	4.6	179	0.2	1 359	1.1	100 950	82.1	205	0.2	20 394	16.6
Afghans	858	577	67.2	170	19.8	111	13.0	-	-	427	49.8	29	3.4	402	46.8
Aguls	17 728	16 930	95.5	598	3.4	200	1.1	107	0.6	12 269	69.2	959	5.4	4 393	24.8
Albanians	298	130	43.6	163	54.7	5	1.7	-	-	109	36.6	15	5.0	174	58.4
Aleuts	644	163	25.3	465	72.2	16	2.5	27	4.2	148	23.0	4	0.6	465	72.2
Altais	69 409	59 084	85.1	10 251	14.8	74	0.1	1 326	1.9	45 544	65.6	219	0.3	22 320	32.2
Americans	185	129	69.7	38	20.6	18	9.7	-	-	98	53.0	6	3.2	81	43.8
Arabs	2 704	2 055	76.0	437	16.2	212	7.8	-	-	1 773	65.6	41	1.5	890	32.9
Armenians	532 390	361 035	67.8	169 448	31.8	1 907	0.4	41 215	2.7	326 653	61.4	8 694	1.6	155 829	29.3
Assyrians	9 622	4 756	49.4	4 697	48.8	169	1.8	-	-	4 496	46.7	413	4.3	4 713	49.0
Austrians	295	87	29.5	176	59.7	32	10.8	-	-	89	30.2	11	3.7	195	66.1
Avars	544 016	531 746	97.7	8 617	1.6	3 653	0.7	1 009	0.2	355 094	65.3	6 132	1.1	181 781	33.4
Azerbaijanis	335 889	282 713	84.9	49 120	14.6	4 056	1.2	8 734	2.6	226 661	67.5	4 885	1.5	95 609	28.4
Balkars	78 341	74 681	95.3	3 267	4.2	393	0.5	361	0.5	62 898	80.3	543	0.7	14 539	18.5
Baluchis	297	138	46.5	134	45.1	25	8.4	-	-	120	40.4	23	7.7	154	51.9
Bashkirs	1 345 273	979 923	72.8	135 135	10.1	230 215 1/	17.1	23 995	1.8	977 152	72.6	16 445 2/	1.2	327 681	24.4

Belorussians	1 206 222	436 857	36.2	765 432	63.5	3 933	0.3	176 020	14.6	406 200	33.7	17 947 3/	1.5	606 055	50.2
British	223	144	64.6	77	34.5	2	0.9	-	-	114	51.1	9	4.0	100	44.9
Bulgarians	32 785	14 716	44.9	17 526	53.5	543	1.6	-	-	13 572	41.4	2 001	6.1	17 212	52.5
Buryats	417 425	361 368	86.6	55 587	13.3	470	0.1	10 329	2.5	301 998	72.3	632	0.2	104 466	25.0
Central Asian Jews	1 407	253	18.0	1 123	79.8	31	2.2	26	1.8	143	10.2	135	9.6	1 103	78.4
Chechens	898 999	888 147	98.8	9 502	1.1	1 350	0.1	1 522	0.2	665 468	74.0	3 810	0.4	228 199	25.4
Cherkes	50 764	46 474	91.5	2 648	5.2	1 642	3.3	344	0.7	39 202	77.2	566	1.1	10 652	21.0
Chinese	5 197	1 604	30.9	3 491	67.1	102	2.0	-	-	1 477	28.4	143	2.8	3 577	68.8
Chukchi	15 107	10 636	70.4	4 278	28.3	193	1.3	529	3.5	9 263	61.3	52	0.3	5 263	34.9
Chuvans	1 384	256	18.5	985	71.2	143	10.3	53	3.8	345	24.9	44	3.2	942	68.1
Chuvash	1 773 645	1 375 215	77.5	394 827	22.3	3 603	0.2	79 617	4.5	1 168 144	65.9	17 903	1.0	507 981	28.6
Crimean Tatars	21 275	19 013	89.4	2 049	9.6	213	1.0	420	2.0	17 777	83.5	294	1.4	2 784	13.1
Crimeans	338	99	29.3	232	68.6	7	2.1	22	6.5	89	26.3	12	3.6	215	63.6
Czechs	4 375	1 548	35.4	2 740	62.6	87	2.0	-	-	1 509	34.5	236	5.4	2 630	60.1
Darghins	353 348	346 066	97.9	5 295	1.5	1 987	0.6	724	0.2	240 294	68.0	4 890	1.4	107 440	30.4
Dolgans	6 584	5 532	84.0	1 012	15.4	40	0.6	94	1.4	4 497	68.3	34	0.5	1 959	29.8
Dungans	635	418	65.8	181	28.5	36	5.7	-	-	421	66.3	20	3.1	194	30.6
Dutch	451	125	27.7	298	66.1	28	6.2	-	-	122	27.1	14	3.1	315	69.8
Ents	198	92	46.5	75	37.9	31	15.6	14	7.1	96	48.5	5	2.5	83	41.9
Eskimos	1 704	880	51.6	782	45.9	42	2.5	55	3.2	830	48.7	20	1.2	799	46.9
Estonians	46 390	19 253	41.5	26 938	58.1	199	0.4	5 661	12.2	17 770	38.3	1 037	2.2	21 922	47.3
Evenks	29 901	9 075	30.3	8 458	28.3	12 368 10/	41.4	759	2.5	16 649	55.7	794	2.7	11 699	39.1
Evens	17 055	7 476	43.8	4 677	27.4	4 902	28.8	374	2.2	8 966	52.5	1 257	7.4	6 458	37.9
Finns	47 102	17 056	36.2	29 739	63.1	307	0.7	-	-	16 357	34.7	1 115	2.4	29 630	62.9
French	352	197	56.0	141	40.1	14	3.9	-	-	172	48.9	14	3.9	166	47.2

Gagauz	10 051	6 419	63.9	3 206	31.9	426	4.2	652	6.5	6 322	62.9	441	4.4	2 636	26.2
Georgian Jews	1 172	736	62.8	399	34.0	37	3.2	26	2.2	143	12.2	61	5.2	942	80.4
Georgians	130 689	92 070	70.5	37 357	28.6	1 261	0.9	7 889	6.0	84 374	64.6	2 512	1.9	35 913	27.5
Germans	842 295	352 116	41.8	488 460	58.0	1 719	0.2	-	-	323 195	38.4	6 467	0.8	512 633	60.8
Greeks	91 699	40 814	44.5	47 957	52.3	2 928	3.2	-	-	40 200	43.8	5 138	5.6	46 361	50.6
Gypsies	152 939	131 209	85.8	19 204	12.6	2 526	1.6	6 169	4.0	118 176	77.3	1 533	1.0	27 061	17.7
Horvaths	479	246	51.4	227	47.4	6	1.2	-	-	195	40.7	9	1.9	275	57.4
Hungarians	5 742	3 512	61.2	2 013	35.1	217	3.7	-	-	3 348	58.3	251	4.4	2 143	37.3
Indian and Pakistani peoples	535	327	61.1	158	29.5	50	9.4	-	-	332	62.1	25	4.7	178	33.2
Ingush	215 068	211 210	98.2	3 427	1.6	431	0.2	557	0.3	172 593	80.2	1 193	0.6	40 725	18.9
Iranians (Persians)	2 572	1 087	42.3	997	38.8	488	18.9	-	-	1 243	48.3	274	10.7	1 055	41.0
Italians	627	323	51.5	300	47.8	4	0.7	-	-	133	21.2	18	2.9	476	75.9
Itelmens	2 429	456	18.8	1 948	80.2	25	1.0	106	4.4	404	16.6	34	1.4	1 885	77.6
Izhors	449	188	41.9	254	56.6	7	1.5	61	13.6	177	39.4	19	4.2	192	42.8
Japanese	591	275	46.5	295	49.9	21	3.6	-	-	231	39.1	11	1.9	349	59.0
Jews	536 848	47 704	8.9	485 986	90.5	3 158	0.6	19 579	3.6	37 936	7.1	36 170 4/	6.7	443 163	82.6
Kabardins	386 055	376 884	97.6	8 597	2.2	574	0.2	1 071	0.3	301 415	78.1	1 173	0.3	82 396	21.3
Kalmyks	165 821	154 344	93.1	11 356	6.8	121	0.1	1 540	0.9	144 072	86.9	270	0.2	19 939	12.0
Karachaevs	150 332	146 940	97.7	3 158	2.1	234	0.2	541	0.4	119 939	79.8	369	0.2	29 483	19.6
Karaim	680	73	10.7	596	87.6	11	1.7	15	2.2	62	9.1	58	8.5	545	80.2
Karakalpaks	6 155	4 547	73.9	1 377	22.4	231	3.7	282	4.6	4 191	68.1	193	3.1	1 489	24.2
Karelians	124 921	60 696	48.6	63 905	51.1	320	0.3	16 969	13.6	57 827	46.3	908	0.7	49 217	39.4
Kazakhs	635 865	559 075	87.9	73 043	11.5	3 747	0.6	15 846	2.5	498 598	78.4	4 519	0.7	116 902	18.4
Kets	1 084	529	48.8	536	49.4	19	1.8	60	5.5	488	45.0	11	1.0	525	48.5

Khakas	78 500	60 168	76.6	18 158	23.1	174	2.3	2 267	2.9	52 797	67.3	349	0.4	23 087	29.4
Khalka Mongols	2 117	1 873	88.5	205	9.7	39	1.8	-	-	1 542	72.8	14	0.7	561	26.5
Khants	22 283	13 542	60.8	8 584	38.5	157	0.7	475	2.1	11 330	50.8	171	0.8	10 307	46.3
Kirgyz	41 734	37 364	89.5	3 709	8.9	661	1.6	760	1.8	22 764	54.5	1 237	3.0	16 973	40.7
Komi	336 309	238 880	71.0	97 141	28.9	288	0.1	18 727	5.6	211 008	62.7	884	0.3	105 690	31.4
Komi-Permyaks	147 269	104 715	71.1	42 287	28.7	267	0.2	10 739	7.3	91 454	62.1	589	0.4	44 487	30.2
Koreans	107 051	39 027	36.5	67 519	63.0	505	0.5	-	-	34 068	31.8	1 737	1.6	71 246	66.6
Koryaks	8 942	4 685	52.4	4 183	46.8	74	0.8	482	5.4	4 182	46.8	58	0.6	4 220	47.2
Kubins	1 566	1 120	71.6	226	14.4	220	14.0	-	-	1 154	73.7	19	1.2	393	25.1
Kumyks	277 163	270 857	97.7	4 936	1.8	1 370	0.5	676	0.2	206 966	74.7	1 931	0.7	67 590	24.4
Kurds	4 724	3 803	80.5	593	12.6	328	6.9	-	-	2 959	62.6	558	11.8	1 207	25.6
Laks	106 245	101 063	95.1	4 117	3.9	1 065	1.0	458	0.4	82 606	77.8	1 486	1.4	21 695	20.4
Letts	46 829	20 044	42.8	26 513	56.6	272	0.6	5 274	11.3	18 961	40.5	1 099	2.3	21 495	45.9
Lezghins	257 270	241 704	93.9	11 589	4.5	3 977	1.6	1 749	0.7	176 817	68.7	4 711	1.8	73 993	28.8
Lithuanians	70 427	41 966	59.6	27 886	39.6	575	0.8	6 841	9.7	39 838	56.6	959	1.4	22 789	32.3
Livs	64	31	48.4	28	43.8	5	7.8	7	10.9	22	34.4	6	9.4	29	45.3
Mansi	8 279	3 037	36.7	5 188	62.7	54	0.6	243	2.9	2 699	32.6	105	1.3	5 232	63.2
Mari	643 698	526 961	81.9	114 694	17.8	2 043	0.3	20 999	3.3	447 488	69.5	14 649 5/	2.3	160 562	24.9
Meskhet Turks	9 890	8 470	85.6	991	10.0	429	4.4	-	-	6 751	68.3	441	4.4	2 698	27.3
Moldavians	172 671	115 342	66.8	54 756	31.7	2 573	1.5	13 750	8.0	106 459	61.7	3 463	2.0	48 999	28.3
Mordvins	1 072 939	740 048	69.0	330 779	30.8	2 112	0.2	85 269	7.9	690 217	64.3	5 941	0.6	291 512	27.2
Mountain Jews	11 282	8 479	75.2	2 381	21.1	422	3.7	127	1.1	7 539	66.8	356	3.2	3 260	28.9
Nanai	11 883	5 240	44.1	6 571	55.3	72	0.6	624	5.3	4 775	40.2	109	0.9	6 375	53.6
Negidals	587	156	26.6	408	69.5	23	3.9	28	4.8	129	22.0	13	2.2	417	71.0

Nenets	34 190	26 553	77.7	6 009	17.6	1 628	4.7	528	1.6	21 246	62.1	460	1.3	11 956	35.0
Nganasan	1 262	1 052	83.4	193	15.3	17	1.3	32	2.5	717	56.8	16	1.3	497	39.4
Nivkh	4 631	1 079	23.3	3 529	76.2	23	0.5	123	2.7	917	19.8	54	1.1	3 537	76.4
Nogai	73 703	66 641	90.4	2 154	2.9	4 908	6.7	367	0.5	58 781	79.8	505	0.7	14 050	19.0
Oroch	883	157	17.8	715	81.0	11	1.2	22	2.5	120	13.6	-	-	741	83.9
Oroks	179	80	44.7	97	54.2	2	1.1	4	2.2	73	40.8	1	0.6	101	56.4
Ossetes	402 275	374 931	93.2	25 876	6.4	1 468	0.4	4 206	1.1	334 700	83.2	3 817	0.9	59 552	14.8
Poles	94 594	14 314	15.1	70 669	74.7	9 611	10.2	-	-	21 061	22.3	11 509	12.2	62 024	65.5
Romanians	5 996	2 789	46.5	2 160	36.0	1 047	17.5	-	-	3 374	56.3	520	8.7	2 102	35.0
Russians	119 865 946	119 811 123	99.9	-	-	54 823 6/	0.1	20 170	-	-	-	726 450 7/	0.6	119 119 326	99.4
Rutuls	19 503	18 620	95.5	606	3.1	277	1.4	98	0.5	12 379	63.5	1 389	7.1	5 637	28.9
Saami	1 835	771	42.0	1 042	56.8	22	1.2	128	7.0	749	40.8	40	2.2	918	50.0
Selkup	3 564	1 701	47.7	1 803	50.6	60	1.7	96	2.7	1 518	42.6	45	1.3	1 905	53.4
Serbs	1 580	697	44.1	470	29.8	413	26.1	-	-	868	54.9	51	3.2	661	41.9
Shors	15 745	9 051	57.5	6 435	40.9	259	1.6	977	6.2	8 433	53.6	98	0.6	6 237	39.6
Slovaks	711	407	57.2	255	35.9	49	6.9	-	-	395	55.6	37	5.2	279	39.2
Spaniards	2 054	1 043	50.8	985	47.9	26	1.3	-	-	951	46.3	40	1.9	1 063	51.8
Tabasarans	93 587	90 445	96.6	2 251	2.4	891	1.0	287	0.3	58 451	62.5	4 552	4.9	30 297	32.3
Tajiks	38 208	30 601	80.1	6 640	17.4	967	2.5	1 155	3.0	25 631	67.1	1 161	3.0	10 261	26.9
Talysh	202	135	66.8	47	23.3	20	9.9	5	2.5	111	55.0	24	11.8	62	30.7
Tatars	5 522 096	4 724 864	85.6	782 881	14.2	14 351 8/	0.2	197 747	3.6	4 013 515	72.7	22 969 9/	0.4	1 287 665	23.3
Tats	19 420	16 208	83.5	2 787	14.3	425	2.2	317	1.6	15 168	78.1	444	2.3	3 491	18.0
Tofalars	722	309	42.8	401	55.5	12	1.7	14	1.9	283	39.2	12	1.7	413	57.2
Tsakhurs	6 492	6 165	95.0	208	3.2	119	1.8	35	0.5	3 642	56.1	641	9.9	2 174	33.5
Turkmens	39 739	34 364	86.5	4 699	11.8	676	1.7	827	2.1	30 410	76.5	685	1.7	7 817	19.7

Tuvins	206 160	203 208	98.6	2 835	1.3	117	0.1	393	0.2	121 975	59.2	332	0.2	83 460	40.4
Udege	1 902	462	24.3	1 296	68.1	144	7.6	132	6.9	334	17.6	17	0.9	1 419	74.6
Udmurts	714 833	506 169	70.8	206 859	28.9	1 805	0.3	38 355	5.3	445 125	62.3	10 456	1.5	220 897	30.9
Uighurs	2 577	1 527	59.3	840	32.6	210	8.1	-	-	1 560	60.5	170	6.6	847	32.9
Ukrainians	4 362 872	18 668 867	42.8	2 487 210	57.0	6 795	0.2	678 435	15.6	1 661 912	38.1	19 022	0.4	2 003 503	45.9
Ulch	3 173	974	30.7	2 111	66.5	88	2.8	137	4.3	767	24.2	113	3.6	2 156	67.9
Udins	1 102	778	70.6	273	24.8	51	4.6	68	6.2	648	58.8	80	7.3	305	27.7
Uzbeks	126 899	101 059	79.6	22 915	18.1	2 925	2.3	4 507	3.6	86 545	68.2	3 934	3.1	31 913	25.1
Veps	12 142	6 231	51.3	5 863	48.3	48	0.4	822	6.8	6 015	49.5	175	1.4	4 130	34.0
Vietnamese	2 142	2 100	98.0	39	1.8	3	0.2	-	-	938	43.8	5	0.2	1 199	56.0
Yakuts	380 242	357 522	94.0	22 544	5.9	176	0.1	5 049	1.3	247 087	65.0	376	0.1	127 730	33.6
Yukagirs	1 112	356	32.0	510	45.9	246	22.1	41	3.7	413	37.1	147	13.2	511	46.0
Other	3 319	1 782	53.7	1 034	31.2	503	15.1	67	2.0	1 598	48.1	103	3.2	1 551	46.7
Nationality not indicated	15 513	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 513	100.0	-	-	950	6.1	14 563	93.9
TOTAL	147 021 869	139 094 945	94.6	7 495 454	5.1	431 470	0.3	1 552 234	1.1	16 405 826	11.1	1 006 142	0.7	128 057 667	87.1

Source: *Narody Rossii, Entsyklopedia* (Moscow, 1994)

1/ Tatar: 227,800.

2/ Tatar: 12,700.

3/ Ukrainian: 7,500.

4/ Ukrainian: 26,000.

5/ Tatar: 12,500.

6/ Ukrainian: 14,700.

7/ Ukrainian: 364,600.

8/ Bashkir: 5,700.

9/ Chuvash: 4,300.

10/ Yakut: 11,900.

Annex III

INFORMATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN PARAGRAPH 22 OF ITS CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AFTER CONSIDERING THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH PERIODIC REPORTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (CERD/C/304/Add.5)

1. To bring about a peaceful settlement to the crisis in the Chechen Republic and offer real protection for human and civil rights and freedoms throughout the Russian Federation, the Russian leadership took the following series of steps in 1996.

31 March 1996	The President of the Russian Federation signs a decree, "A programme for the settlement of the crisis in the Chechen Republic".
27-28 May 1996	An Agreement on a ceasefire and cessation of military activities and steps to settle the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic, and the minutes of a meeting of the working groups, are signed in Moscow.
10 June 1996	The minutes of a meeting of the Commission negotiating a ceasefire, cessation of military activities and steps to settle the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic, and the minutes of a meeting of the working groups looking for missing persons and seeking the release of forcible detainees, are signed in Nazran.
14 August 1996	The President of the Russian Federation signs a decree, "Further moves to settle the crisis in the Chechen Republic".
22 August 1996	An agreement on prompt action to secure a ceasefire and cessation of military activities in Grozny and the Chechen Republic is signed in Novye Atagi.
31 August 1996	A joint declaration is signed in Khasavyurt; "Principles defining the basis of relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic" are agreed.
3 October 1996	A declaration covering the creation and functioning of a joint governmental commission is signed in Moscow.
23 November 1996	A decree by the President of the Russian Federation, "Steps to secure further peaceful settlement in the Chechen Republic" and an agreement on the principles governing cooperation between the parties pending the election of a president and parliament of the Chechen Republic are signed.

2. These moves to deal with the situation in the Chechen Republic demonstrate the Russian leadership's firm intention to arrive at a settlement by peaceful means in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

3. At present, it is chiefly economic and political means that are being used to normalize the situation. The election of a president of the Chechen Republic on 27 January 1997 was an important step towards the political settlement of relations between the governmental authorities of the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic.

4. Action is being taken to restore transport infrastructure and essential facilities, and to pay pensions, wages and compensation to the victims of military operations.

5. Despite the Russian leadership's proven willingness to settle the crisis in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation by peaceful means, however, the agreements reached continue to be unilaterally violated by illegal armed units in attacks on the security, lives, freedom, honour and dignity of citizens of the Russian Federation and foreigners in the Chechen Republic.

6. As divisions and units of the Federal forces have withdrawn from the Chechen Republic, the criminal and psychological pressures on Russian and Russian-speaking inhabitants of Chechnya have intensified and a policy of "ethnic cleansing" is in effect.

7. The President of the Russian Federation's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic has been receiving an enormous number of complaints from Russians and Russian-speakers, together with requests for assistance in leaving Chechnya immediately for other parts of the Federation.

8. There are squads in Grozny that identify and intimidate Russian and Russian-speaking families. They also demand that the Russians get out of Grozny; otherwise they will be moved into special reservations.

9. Only Chechens receive compensation for housing that has been destroyed or that they have been forced to leave. There are reports of extortion by the compensation commissions. Russians cannot afford to move their property out of the Republic. The prices offered to Russians selling their homes are unrealistically low: 400 to 600 dollars. Russians do not receive any of the humanitarian assistance delivered to the Republic. It is distributed among the Chechens, who sell it on to the markets.

10. Criminal outfits in the Chechen Republic tend to direct their activities against non-Chechens. According to the Coordinating Centre at the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, 331 serious crimes were recorded in the Chechen Republic between September and October 1996 (249 of them against non-Chechens):

(a) Homicides - 35 cases (25 against non-Chechens);

(b) Serious bodily harm - 88 cases (66 against non-Chechens);

(c) Robbery with assault - 117 cases (90 against non-Chechens);

(d) Abductions - 94 cases (68 against non-Chechens).

11. Since the unified commands were set up in Grozny, they have been approached by 1,032 individuals reporting crimes. Theft, robberies and assaults have become widespread in the city.

12. Between 1 and 21 September 1996, Central Unified Command in Grozny alone received over 400 reports of crimes from Russian citizens (there have been 600 formal complaints from residents of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation). Most concerned criminal attempts to seize citizens' property. In 66 incidents, illegal acts against inhabitants of Grozny have been accompanied by threats of murder; 47 of them have been against Russians.

13. Of 43 incidents in which money, valuables and property were extorted, 33 were directed against Russian citizens; of 15 incidents where apartments were seized, 10 of the victims were Russians; of 135 citizens complaining of illegal confiscations, destruction or damage to property, 103 were Russians.

14. Because of criminal moves to drive non-Chechens out of the Republic, the flow of refugees from Chechnya has not declined since the Russian forces withdrew, as the statistics prove.

15. Between December 1994 and August 1996, local branches of the Russian Federal Migration Service recorded over 453,000 citizens of the Chechen Republic who left their homes; between 6 August and 11 September 1996 alone, they registered and provided temporary accommodation for roughly 270,000 civilian victims.

16. According to Federal Migration Service figures, roughly 140,000 people who have emigrated from the Republic say they could no longer live there. Judging by the many applications to the Service, there are probably between 50,000 and 60,000 people who would like to leave the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation. The lack of guaranteed education, medical care, jobs, etc. might be explained by the temporary difficulties of the transitional period, but the violence, hostage-taking, confiscations of property, evictions and persecution on national grounds in defiance of all the rules clearly show that mass violations of human rights are taking place in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.

17. Using all possible means of influencing the situation - among them, ensuring that Russian citizens can exercise their right to take part in elections to legislative and executive bodies - the Russian leadership is determined (as the Constitution of the Russian Federation requires) not to permit the rights and freedoms of Russians to be infringed.

18. As part of its efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the crisis, the Russian Government has been collaborating with the OCSE Assistance Group in the Chechen Republic.

19. The Russian Government has continued to cooperate with the special mechanisms of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights over events in the Chechen Republic.